

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Health and Government

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Following is a portion of an address delivered by Walter Lippmann before the New York Academy of Medicine, December 19, 1935:

* * * The point I wish to make is that the conception of government as a problem in engineering is a false and misleading conception, that the image of the engineer is not a true image of a statesman, and that society can not be planned and engineered as if it were a building, a machine, or a ship. The reason why the engineering image is a bad image in polities, is a bad working model for political thought, is a bad pattern to have in mind when dealing with political issues is a very simple one. The engineer deals with inanimate materials. The statesman deals with the behavior of persons.

A mode of thought appropriate to the organization of inanimate elements can not be applied successfully to the organization of animate ones. It is as radical a misconception as would be the attempt to become an architect by studying music or a horticulturist by studying astronomy. The engineer who plans a building can calculate the weight which his steel will sustain. But he does not have to consider whether his girders and his bricks will renew their vitality from day to day and reproduce their kind from generation to generation. Nor does he have to consider whether they will be willing to hang together in the structure into which he has put them, whether

the girders, for example, will grow weary of supporting the bricks, and begin to have purposes which he did not assign to them when he made his plan.

Surely it is almost self-evident that if, as an instrument of political thinking, we must have a working image derived from some more familiar discipline, then it is to the biological sciences that we must look for an analogy. Since the statesman deals with living things, he had better take his analogies and his inspiration from those who deal with living things, from farmers, and animal trainers, and teachers, and physicians rather than from astronomers, and engineers and architects. For analogies, images, working hypotheses, patterns, whatever you choose to call them, which come from man's dealings with the world of living organisms will at least have the virtue of keeping vividly in his mind a sense of what he is handling. Governing is an art. It requires, as all arts do, a sense of touch, an intuitive feeling for the material, a kind of sixth sense of how it will behave.

The masters of any profession know something more than it is possible to communicate; they are so sympathetically at one with their subject that instinctively they possess the nature of it. Before they have reasoned consciously, they have smelt, have felt, have perceived what it is and what to do. It used to be said that you did not have to be in the ring with Jack

Dempsey for fifteen rounds in order to learn that he was a champion. Likewise, the master of a subject, whether he is a carpenter or the rider of a horse, a diagnostician or a surgeon, will quickly disclose in the inevitable emergencies of any human activity whether he possesses that intimate feeling, that flair, that uncalculated aptitude which distinguishes the first-rater from the second-rater.

Now among public affairs as elsewhere, since everything can not be reasoned out *a priori* in each emergency, it is of the utmost importance that the political tradition of a country should predispose men towards a true and reliable sense of how living men in a living society behave. That is why the dominant imagery is so important.

The image of a planned and engineered society has the effect, I believe, of destroying the intuitive feeling for what society actually is and of the sense of touch in dealing with human affairs. The grosser consequences of it are evident enough: in the supreme impertinence with which communist and fascist states treat human beings as if they were inanimate materials to be fabricated by the dictators; in the ruthlessness with which they cut human nature to the shape they desire and nail together in designs of their own the living spirits of men. This notion that society can be engineered, planned, fabricated as if men were inanimate materials becomes in its extremist manifestations a monstrous blasphemy against life itself. It can also take milder forms which merely produce temporary confusion and inconvenience.

* * *

The man who approaches public life with a feeling for living organisms will not fall into the illusion of thinking he can plan or fabricate or engineer a human society. He will have the more modest aim of defending it against the invasion of its enemies and of assisting it to maintain its own balance.

Remembering that a society is an association of living persons, and not an arrangement of inanimate materials, he will never imagine that he can impose upon those living persons and their descendants his private preferences. He will recognize that the function of government is not to decide how men shall live, what kind of men they shall be, what they shall spend their energies upon. Government can not direct the life of a society. Government can not shape the destiny of the human race.

There are some who think that government should use all its powers of coercion to make the social order correspond with their own ideal of a nobler and more satisfying social order. But this is as if a doctor dealt with a patient on the assumption that he must use drastic medicine if he finds that his patient is

not as strong as Hercules, as beautiful as Apollo, and as wise as Zeus. He would be an absurd doctor. The sound physician, I take it, is not attempting to make a superman out of his patient. He takes measures to protect him against the invasion of hostile bodies. He cultivates habits which improve his resistance. He intervenes with medicines and surgery when he thinks he can assist the patient in recovering his own equilibrium. Always, if I understand the faith of the physician, he regards himself not as the creator, designer and dictator of the nature of man but as the servant and the ally of nature. There are times to be sure when his patient is prostrate and the doctor must be the master of his whole regime. But even in these times, the good doctor will be continually seeking for ways, not to make a new man of his patient but to encourage those recuperative powers which may at least enable the patient to walk again on his own feet.

There is a vast difference between those who, as engineers dealing with inanimate materials, can dictate to nature and those who, as physicians dealing with living organisms, must respect nature and assist her. My thesis is that statesmen had better think of themselves as physicians who assist society than as engineers who plan and fabricate it. They will understand these problems better if they realize that society has not been invented or constructed by any man or any set of men but is in fact the result of the infinitely complex adaptions by innumerable persons through countless generations. Its destiny is beyond the power of the human mind to imagine it. Its reality is complex beyond the mind's power to grasp it. Its energies are beyond the power of any men to direct it. Society can be defended. Its adjustments can be facilitated. Its various purposes can be clarified, enlightened, and accommodated. Its aches and pains can in some measure be relieved. But society is not and never will be a machine that can be designed, can be assembled, can be operated by those who happen to sit in the seats of authority.

To know this, to realize the ultimate limitations of government, and to abide by them, is to have that necessary humility which, though for the moment it is at a discount in many parts of the globe, is nevertheless the beginning of wisdom. Without it men will use political power for ends that government can not realize, and in the vanity of their delusions fall into all manner of cruelty, disorder, and waste. They will have forgotten to respect the nature of living things, and in their ambition to be as gods among men they will affront the living God. They will not have learned that those who would be more than human end by being less than human.

GOOD HEALTH AND GOOD ROADS

The health officer of Santa Clara County, Dr. C. M. Burchfiel, in the monthly bulletin of his department, has made an interesting comparison of the cost involved in the construction of concrete roads and the provision of public health service.

He states that everyone knows the value of good roads. They promote travel and commerce, increase speed, and help to increase the gasoline tax income. Furthermore, there is no objection to building new roads wherever they may be needed. He states, further, that two miles of concrete road through orchard land cost on an average \$40,000 and that the same amount of money placed at work in the cause of public health will supply the following for a whole year:

6 nurses for communicable disease control, maternal, infant and child welfare work
 4 inspectors for milk, foods and sanitation
 1 social worker for foster home work
 1 qualified laboratory worker
 3 clerks for records and office work
 5 physicians or dentists for part time work
 1 health officer, M.D., and the following supplies and incidentals:
 5000 vaccinations against smallpox
 5000 toxoid immunizations against diphtheria
 4000 tuberculin skin tests
 2500 examinations of babies and children at clinics
 600 mothers given prenatal supervision
 1000 examinations at chest clinics
 1000 cultures examined for diphtheria
 1500 samples of milk analyzed
 500 specimens examined for tuberculosis
 1000 varied laboratory examinations
 2000 bulletins, containing health information and advice, for distribution each month

The above comparison of cost of roads and cost of health services provides food for thought. None can deny the need for good roads and there should be no denial of the need for adequate public health service in every community.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES

The California State Board of Public Health, at its regular November meeting, established the following qualifications for a certificate in public health nursing, as provided in section 4225b of the Political Code:

1. Applicant shall be a registered nurse under the law of California.
2. Applicant who has completed a course in public health nursing from a school whose curriculum has been approved by the California State Board

of Public Health may receive a certificate without examination.

3. Applicant who presents evidence of having engaged in public health nursing for a period of two years in connection with a public health organization approved by the State Board of Public Health may receive a certificate of public health nursing on passing an examination.
4. All applications for examination as public health nurse shall be filed in the office of the State Department of Public Health, 312 State Building, San Francisco.
5. All applications shall have attached to them an affidavit, sworn to before a notary public, as to qualifications outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3.
6. These regulations shall be in force and effect on and after January 1, 1936.

DISEASES REPORTABLE IN CALIFORNIA

REPORTABLE ONLY

ANTHRAX	MALARIA*
BERIBERI	PELLAGRA
BOTULISM	PNEUMONIA (Lobar)
COCCIDIOIDAL GRANULOMA	RELAPSING FEVER
DENGUE*	ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPOTTED FEVER
FLUKE INFECTION	SEPTIC SORE THROAT
FOOD POISONING	TETANUS
GLANDERS***	TRICHINOSIS
HOOKWORM	TULAREMIA
JAUNDICE (Infectious)	UNDULANT FEVER

ISOLATION OF PATIENT

CHICKENPOX**	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM
DYSENTERY (Amoebic)	PSITTACOSIS
DYSENTERY (Bacillary)	RABIES (Animal)**
ERYSIPelas	RABIES (Human)
GERMAN MEASLES**	SYPHILIS
GONOCOCCUS INFECTION	TRACHOMA
INFLUENZA	TUBERCULOSIS
MEASLES**	WHOOPING COUGH**
MUMPS**	

QUARANTINABLE

CHOLERA***	SCARLET FEVER
DIPHTHERIA	SMALLPOX
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)	TYPHOID AND PARATYPHOID FEVER
LEPROSY	TYPHUS FEVER
MENINGITIS (Epidemic)	YELLOW FEVER***
PLAQUE***	
ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS	

* Patients should be kept in mosquito-free room.

** Nonimmune contacts isolated also.

*** Cases to be reported to State Department of Public Health by telephone or telegraph and special instructions will be issued.

There are steps in education that can be taken only after one has gained some measure of experience.—Leon J. Richardson.

The social order changes. Only those who think are not left behind by the on-rolling globe.—Leon J. Richardson.

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending December 21, 1935

Chickenpox

491 cases: Alameda County 2, Alameda 2, Berkeley 10, Emeryville 1, Oakland 18, Oroville 1, Colusa County 6, Colusa 2, Contra Costa County 11, Hercules 1, Walnut Creek 1, Fresno County 8, Coalinga 2, Fresno 3, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 12, Alhambra 4, Beverly Hills 2, Burbank 1, Compton 2, El Segundo 1, Glendale 14, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 35, Montebello 2, Pasadena 3, Pomona 1, Santa Monica 6, Sierra Madre 2, Whittier 3, South Gate 3, Maywood 2, Bell 1, Madera County 4, Madera 2, Marin County 5, Merced County 3, Merced 4, Monterey County 3, King City 2, Napa 1, Orange County 12, Orange 2, Santa Ana 19, Riverside County 3, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 26, Sacramento 35, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 10, San Diego County 23, Chula Vista 1, Escondido 1, La Mesa 1, National City 10, San Diego 51, San Francisco 43, San Joaquin County 3, Lodi 1, Manteca 1, Stockton 8, San Luis Obispo County 1, San Luis Obispo 4, San Mateo County 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 4, Santa Clara County 6, Los Gatos 2, Mountain View 1, Vallejo 1, Ventura County 4, Santa Paula 1, Ventura 3, Yolo County 6, Davis 2, Woodland 11.

Diphtheria

40 cases: Alameda County 1, Oakland 3, Fresno County 2, Imperial County 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 5, Los Angeles 8, Pomona 1, Bell 1, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 1, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 1, Watsonville 1, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 3.

German Measles

97 cases: Alameda County 4, Alameda 1, Berkeley 2, Hayward 1, Oakland 2, Contra Costa County 6, Walnut Creek 1, Fresno County 3, Inyo County 2, Bishop 30, Los Angeles County 4, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 6, Pasadena 4, Hawthorne 1, Orange 1, Santa Ana 1, Tustin 2, Chula Vista 9, San Francisco 12, San Joaquin County 1, Burlingame 1, Ventura County 1.

Influenza

42 cases: Westmoreland 1, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 7, Glendale 2, Los Angeles 20, Pomona 2, Santa Monica 1, Maywood 1, Riverside County 1, Riverside 1, San Diego County 1, San Francisco 1, San Joaquin County 1, Burlingame 1.

Malaria

2 cases: Merced County 1, California 1.*

Measles

336 cases: Alameda County 5, Berkeley 17, Oakland 14, Butte County 3, Chico 2, Oroville 14, Colusa County 1, Contra Costa County 2, Fresno County 3, Fresno 3, Imperial County 1, Los Angeles County 14, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 40, Manhattan 1, Pasadena 6, Pomona 4, Redondo 3, Madera County 3, Madera 5, Monterey County 29, Salinas 2, Napa County 1, Plumas County 1, Riverside County 1, Riverside 3, Sacramento 2, San Diego County 2, National City 2, Oceanside 1, San Diego 4, San Francisco 55, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo County 4, Burlingame 1, Santa Barbara County 5, Santa Clara County 4, Mountain View 1, Sutter County 1, Ventura County 16, Santa Paula 1, Yolo County 23, Woodland 31.

Mumps

228 cases: Berkeley 2, Oakland 12, Butte County 1, Chico 1, Colusa County 4, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 3, Fresno 1, Imperial County 1, Kern County 3, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 13, Azusa 1, Claremont 1, Compton 2, Glendale 1, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 18, Pomona 5, Santa Monica 9, Sierra Madre 1, Whittier 1, Signal Hill 1, Merced County 1, Merced 6, Monterey County 7, Salinas 1, Orange County 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 2, Riverside County 1, Corona 10, Riverside 3, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 40, San Diego County 4, San Diego 4, San Francisco 5, San Joaquin County 20, Stockton 4, San Luis Obispo 6, Burlingame 1, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara County 1, Los Gatos 1, Watsonville 1, Sutter County 1, Red Bluff 1, Tulare County 1, Woodland 2, Marysville 8.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

91 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 1, Fresno County 4, Fresno 2, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 10, Burbank 1, Glendale 1, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 37, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, Santa Monica 1, Sierra Madre 1, Madera 1, Orange County 1, Fullerton 2, Riverside County 1, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 3, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 4, San

* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

Francisco 3, San Joaquin County 2, Stockton 1, Santa Clara County 1, Stanislaus County 1, Ceres 1, Modesto 3.

Scarlet Fever

321 cases: Alameda County 1, Alameda 8, Berkeley 2, Butte County 11, Chico 2, Colusa County 1, Colusa 1, Contra Costa County 1, Richmond 1, El Dorado County 2, Placerville 1, Fresno County 1, Reedley 1, Selma 1, Imperial County 4, Bishop 2, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 32, Alhambra 11, Beverly Hills 2, Burbank 1, Compton 1, Huntington Park 5, Long Beach 9, Los Angeles 46, Manhattan 1, Montebello 1, Pasadena 5, Pomona 1, San Francisco 3, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, South Gate 4, Merced County 1, Nevada County 1, Nevada City 2, Orange County 4, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 2, Plumas County 4, Riverside County 2, Beaumont 1, Sacramento County 7, Sacramento 30, Redlands 4, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 8, Escondido 1, La Mesa 1, San Diego 20, San Francisco 30, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo County 2, San Mateo County 2, Redwood City 1, South San Francisco 1, Santa Barbara 3, Santa Clara County 1, Santa Cruz County 3, Siskiyou County 2, Stanislaus County 1, Sutter County 5, Red Bluff 4, Tulare County 2, Tulare 1, Tuolumne County 3, Ventura County 1, Ventura 4, Yolo County 1, Davis 1, Woodland 1.

Smallpox

8 cases: Monterey County.

Typhoid Fever

9 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Fresno County 2, Holtville 1, Los Angeles 2, Mendocino County 1, Nevada City 1.

Whooping Cough

111 cases: Alameda 3, Berkeley 2, Oakland 9, Contra Costa County 4, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 3, Beverly Hills 4, Glendale 2, Huntington Park 1, Los Angeles 18, Pasadena 1, San Gabriel 1, South Gate 1, Alturas 3, Soledad 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 3, San Diego County 3, National City 1, San Diego 5, San Francisco 32, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo County 1, Santa Cruz County 3, Watsonville 2, Vallejo 1, Ventura County 2.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

6 cases: Lakeport 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento 1, Watsonville 1.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

7 cases: Los Angeles.

Dysentery (Amoebic)

3 cases: Oakland 1, Eureka 1, San Francisco 1.

Leprosy

1 case: Imperial County.

Pellagra

2 cases: Los Angeles County.

Poliomyelitis

10 cases: Fresno County 1, Fresno 1, Kern County 4, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, Orange County 1, Siskiyou County 1.

Tetanus

One case: Pasadena.

Trachoma

One case: San Francisco.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

4 cases: San Diego County.

Trichinosis

One case: San Francisco.

Food Poisoning

8 cases: Orange 4, San Francisco 4.

Undulant Fever

4 cases: Los Angeles 1, Pomona 1, Hollister 1, Ventura 1.

Septic Sore Throat (Epidemic)

4 cases: Lake County 2, Riverside 1, Lompoc 1.

Rabies (Animal)

18 cases: Fresno County 4, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 5, South Gate 2, San Diego 3, Stockton 2.

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